

SERVICES FOR AIR TRANSPORT

- 19.1 Introduction
- 19.2 AIRMET
- 19.3 Dial-up Fax — Metfax
- 19.4 Broadcast Fax
- 19.5 Direct-access forecast service
- 19.6 Manual faxing
- 19.7 Aviation Weathercall
- 19.8 MIST

Annex A AIRMET boundary and regions

CHAPTER 19

SERVICES FOR AIR TRANSPORT

19.1 Introduction

19.1.1 The market sector of air transport is not concerned with any services which are provided to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) or which are paid for by CAA, or to military aviation. (CF)2 arrange the services required by the CAA, and (DS) the services for the military. This market sector includes only the provision of services additional to those agreed and financed by the CAA. It does not cover technical aspects of forecasting for air transport which are discussed in the *Handbook of Aviation Meteorological Procedures* (Met.O.544).

19.1.2 The sector also (strictly) includes the provision of data including grid-point data to airlines and other consortia direct from the numerical models, where this is not subject to the CAA condition above. All enquiries received on this subject should be passed to either the Manager Aviation Services, (CF) or Market Sector Manager (Aviation). The subject is not considered further here.

19.1.3 The services provided by the CAA are detailed in the meteorology section of the *Aeronautical Information Publication* (UKAIP-MET), amended as necessary by an *Aeronautical Information Circular* (AIC) or *Notice to Airmen* (NOTAM). If these services do not satisfy or fully meet the requirements of a particular user or group of users, a commercial service may be arranged. Where this service can be met by providing a copy of information already produced for the CAA, there is no objection to doing so and charges at the appropriate rates (see *CS Product Manual*) should be based on the additional cost of copying, transmission, etc. In general only those offices already involved in the provision of services to civil aviation agreed by CAA would meet these additional requirements.

19.1.4 Where additional services are provided which are expected to meet the needs of specific groups of customer, as opposed to one-off tailored services, details of the proposed services should be discussed with Market Sector Manager (Aviation) who will coordinate matters to ensure that there is no conflict on pricing etc. with services offered by neighbouring offices. Prices should be set to recover the marginal costs of providing the service and a proportion of the core costs by using the appropriate multiplier. Market Sector Manager (Aviation) should be consulted on all commercial matters relating to these services.

19.2 AIRMET

19.2.1 AIRMET is a premium-rate telephone service provided for CAA and disseminated by TIS. It is also available on telex via the BT Telex-Plus broadcast system, and by AFTN. Full details of the AIRMET service can be found in UKAIP-MET and Met.O.544, but the main points are outlined below.

19.2.2 Areas covered Forecasts for the 3 regions of AIRMET South, AIRMET North and AIRMET Scottish as shown in Annex A are provided by CFO, Manchester and Glasgow WCs respectively.

19.2.3 Period of validity All three forecasts are renewed routinely to provide the following cover:

0500–1300 UTC with outlook to 2000 the same day
1100–1900 UTC with outlook to 0200 the following day
1700–0100 UTC with outlook to 0800 the following day
2300–0700 UTC with outlook to 1400 the same day*

* This forecast is not recorded by TIS, and hence between 2300 and 0600 LCT has to be made available directly by telephone from CFO, Manchester or Glasgow WCs.

19.2.4 Elements in forecast The forecast includes a brief description of significant synoptic features, weather, warnings, outlook, surface visibility, cloud, freezing level, airframe icing and winds. In the forecasts all heights are given above mean sea level.

19.2.5 Amendments These may be issued at any time up to the start of the validity time of the next routine issue (criteria are published in UKAIP(MET) and Met.O.544). Amendments to the 1800–0200 forecasts are not incorporated in the telephone broadcast after 1930 LCT but are available to telephone callers at CFO, Manchester or Glasgow WCs.

19.2.6 Supplements Forecasters at the three principal offices (and Belfast International Airport for departures from

Northern Ireland) may be consulted without prior notification to provide amplification or clarification of AIRMET or CFO Forms 214/215. Additionally, forecasting offices nominated to prepare TAFS and aerodrome warnings may be required to provide take-off data on request for operators using these aerodromes, and given adequate notice, also supplementary forecast information to augment the currently available AIRMET (or CFO Forms 214/215) for recreational aviation activities (e.g. ballooning, gliding) in their area, **limited to surface wind and temperatures, QNH, lee-wave, see-breeze, and thermal activity.** These are all free services to the enquirer (apart from his telephone call) which is built into the central agreement on services for general aviation between the Office and the CAA.

19.2.7 TAFs and METARs These may be obtained for up to four aerodromes of the user's choice within the coverage of AIRMET/CFO Form 215 by telephoning any of the PS offices listed in Annex A.

19.2.8 Special route forecasts For flights from the United Kingdom to first destinations outside the AIRMET boundaries, special route forecasts can be obtained, free of charge, from within CFO, Manchester or Glasgow WCs, or Belfast International Airport for departures from Northern Ireland. These are provided only if standard documentation is unavailable at the departure aerodrome or inadequate for the intended flight. However, any such forecasts for flights to Iceland are prepared by CFO for departures from the London FIR and by Glasgow from the Scottish FIR. Requests for this service must give a minimum of 2 hours notice for flights up to 500 nautical miles, and at least 4 hours notice if over 500 nautical miles.

19.3 Dial-up Fax — MetFAX

19.3.1 This service which was launched on 14 November 1991 forms part of the revenue sharing agreement with the CAA.

Anyone with a standard Group 3 fax machine which supports polling can access the products.

Fax machine with handset: Pick up the handset and dial one of the numbers. When the words "please press start on your fax machine" are heard, press the START or SEND/RECEIVE button and replace the handset.

Fax machine with poll receive or polling rx: Use the instructions for polling a document from another machine.

Fax machine with manual/on-hook button: Press this button and when the welcome message is heard through the speaker press START.

A HELPLINE is available by phone on 01344 854435 or fax 01344 854018 during office hours.

An Index Page is available on 0336 400 501 which contains the latest details of numbers and products available on the system. A laminated card with the details of products and numbers is available. New products will be trialled from time to time.

19.3.2 Current products available are:

	<u>Validity times (UTC)</u>
ASXX	00 06 12 18
FSXX	00 06 12 18
F214 WINDS	03 09 15 21
F215 SIGWX	03 09 15 21
Surface T+48, T+72	00 12
3-Day planning text (South)	1-3 days
3-Day planning text (North)	1-3 days
Explanatory notes for F215	
4* Tephigrams	00
RAFC Eur Sig Wx	00 06 12 18
F614 Med-High Spot Winds	00 06 12 18

Satellite pictures (visible and infrared)	06 09 12 15 18
Satellite pictures (infrared)	06 12 18

F415 Eur Low level weather	09 (15 summer only)
F414 Eur Low level spot winds	09 (15 summer only)

AIRMET South	05-13	11-19	17-01	23-07
AIRMET North	05-13	11-19	17-01	23-07
AIRMET Scottish	05-13	11-19	17-01	23-07
AIRMET UK Weather text	06-12	12-18	18-24	00-06
AIRMET UK Upper winds text	06-12	12-18	18-24	00-06
AIRMET UK Update and Outlook text	09-15	15-21	21-03	03-09
AIRMET area South West England text	08-17	13-21	17-01	
AIRMET area South East England text	08-17	13-21	17-01	
AIRMET area Central England text	08-17	13-21	17-01	
AIRMET area Cross Channel text	08-17	13-21		

TAFs

1- S England, S Wales	Every 3 hours
2- SE England, Midlands, E Anglia, Wales	Every 3 hours
3- N England, Scotland, Ireland	Every 3 hours
4- SE England, Channel Isles, France	Every 3 hours
5- Europe	Every 3 hours
18hr TAF bulletin UK & Europe	Every 6 hours

METARs

1- S England, S Wales	Every 30 min
2- SE England, Midlands, E Anglia, Wales	Every 30 min
3- N England, Scotland, Ireland	Every 30 min
4- SE England, Channel Isles, France	Every 30 min
5- Europe	Every 30 min

MetFAX is a premium-rate service, calls are currently charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times.

19.4 Broadcast Fax

19.4.1 This service which was launched on 14 November 1991 forms part of the revenue sharing agreement with the CAA.

For customers who require regular fax charts every day, e.g. the larger airports and companies, a more convenient and economical method of receiving them is Broadcast fax from ARTIFAX. There is a minimum requirement of 5 charts per day (35 per week) to subscribe to the automatic system. Customers can select different combinations of products on various days of the week subject to the minimum requirement.

19.4.2 Current list of products available are:

Validity Times (UTC)

NAT	FL390	00	06	12	18
NAT	FL340	00	06	12	18
NAT	FL300	00	06	12	18
NAT	FL180	00	06	12	18
EUR	FL390	00	06	12	18
EUR	FL340	00	06	12	18
EUR	FL300	00	06	12	18
EUR	FL240	00	06	12	18
EUR	FL180	00	06	12	18

EUR	FL100	00	06	12	18
EUR	FL050	00	06	12	18
MID	FL390	00	06	12	18
MID	FL340	00	06	12	18
MID	FL300	00	06	12	18
AFI	FL390	00	06	12	18
AFI	FL340	00	06	12	18
AFI	FL300	00	06	12	18
NAT	SIGWX	00	06	12	18
EUR	SIGWX	00	06	12	18
MID	SIGWX	00	06	12	18
AFI	SIGWX	00	06	12	18
ASXX		00	06	12	18
FSXX		00	06	12	18
F214 WINDS		03	09	15	21
F215 SIGWX		03	09	15	21
AIRMET South		05-13	11-19	17-01	23-07
AIRMET North		05-13	11-19	17-01	23-07
AIRMET Scottish		05-13	11-19	17-01	23-07
AIRMET UK Weather text		06-12	12-18	18-24	00-06
AIRMET UK Upper winds text		06-12	12-18	18-24	00-06
AIRMET UK Update and Outlook text		09-15	15-21	21-03	03-09
AIRMET area South West England text		08-17	13-21	17-01	
AIRMET area South East England text		08-17	13-21	17-01	
AIRMET area Central England text		08-17	13-21	17-01	
AIRMET area Cross Channel text		08-17	13-21		
TAFs					
1- S England, S Wales, Channel Is	Every 3 hours				
2- SE England, Midlands, E Anglia, Wales	Every 3 hours				
3- N England, Scotland, Ireland	Every 3 hours				
4- SE England, Channel Isles, France	Every 3 hours				
5- Europe	Every 3 hours				
18 hr TAF bulletin UK & Europe	Every 6 hours				
METARs					
1- S England, S Wales, Channel Is	Every 30 min				
2- SE England, Midlands, E Anglia, Wales	Every 30 min				
3- N England, Scotland, Ireland	Every 30 min				
4- SE England, Channel Isles, France	Every 30 min				
5- Europe	Every 30 min				

19.5 Direct-access forecast service

Customers can talk directly with a forecaster for the Direct Access Forecast Service. Information can be provided as part of a dialogue, including forecasts for up to 2-3 days and outlooks beyond.

19.6 Manual faxing

Any customer who is registered for the broadcast fax service may request one-off charts from CFO at the same rate of charges for the additional charts.

Customers who are not registered for the broadcast service or have a special requirement, e.g. a personalized list of TAFs are charged at a commercial rate for handling and transmission from a Weather Centre.

19.7 AVIATION WEATHERCALL

19.7.1 AVIATION WEATHERCALL is a premium-rate telephone service disseminated by TIS. It provides a recorded outlook of aviation-related low-level weather conditions over England and Wales for the period 1 to 3 days ahead.

19.7.2 Two separate forecasts are provided, covering AIRMET South and North regions, but AVIATION WEATHERCALL North does not include AIRMET area 6, the Irish Sea. The forecasts are issued once daily and are available from 1300 UTC onward. They are not amended or updated. Access telephone numbers are:

AVIATION WEATHERCALL NORTH	0891 500 751
AVIATION WEATHERCALL SOUTH	0891 500 752

19.7.3 The AVIATION WEATHERCALL Service is **not** provided on behalf of the CAA and does not remove the requirement for pilots to self-brief immediately prior to the flight.

19.8 MIST (Meteorological Information Self-briefing Terminal)

19.8.1 MIST is particularly useful to corporate aviation and up-market flying training schools and clubs, providing real-time weather displays. This enables the pilots to make best use of the weather windows to run training schedules, or taxi/charter flights.

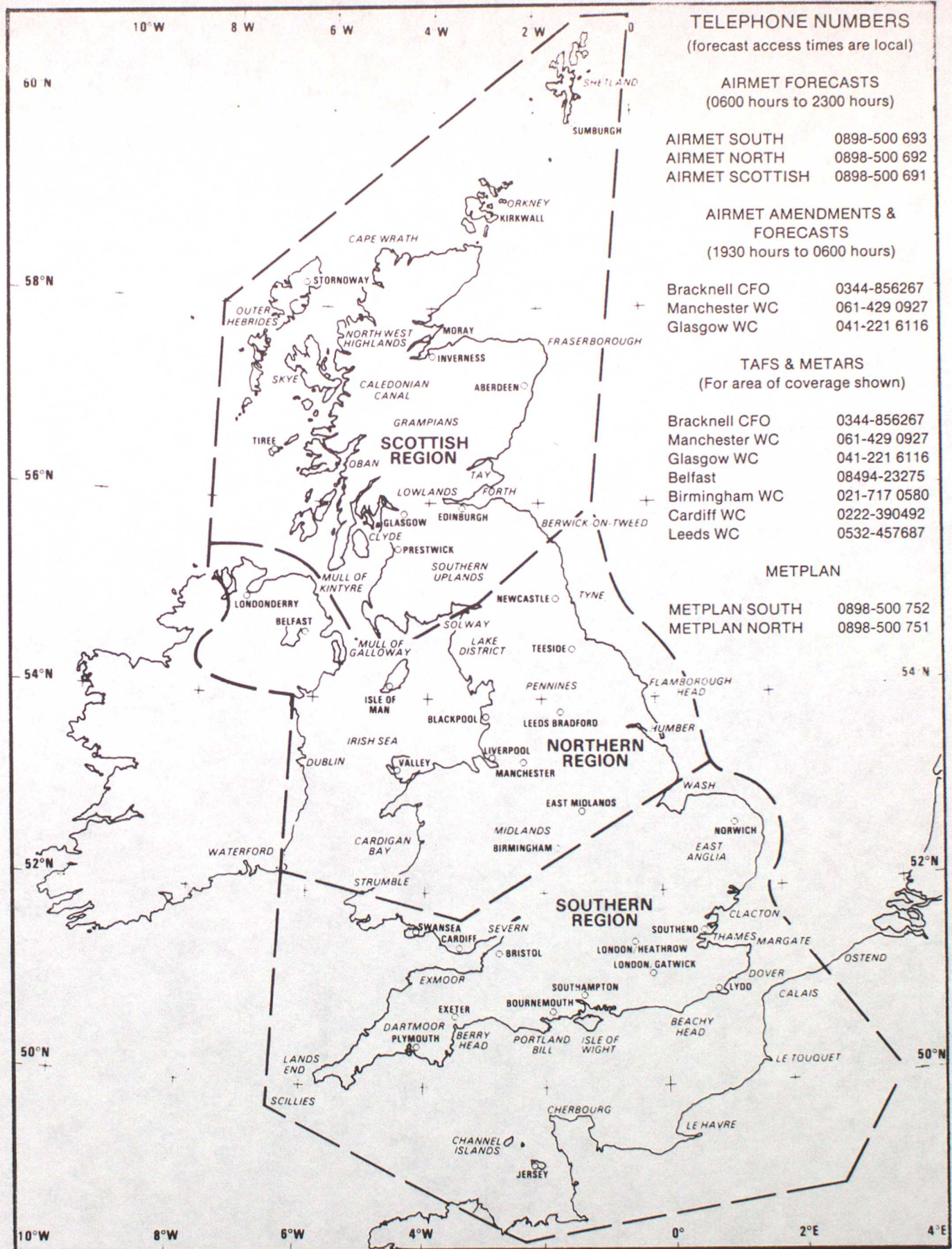
The system is available in either a leased-line mode or a dial-up mode, a leased-line customer can select a skeleton of products and dial up any extras as required.

Aviation products include:

- UK and European TAFs and METARs;
- Airfield colour states describing cloud and visibility;
- Analysis and forecast charts of mean sea level pressure (including fronts) throughout the UK and Europe;
- UK and European maps highlighting significant weather;
- National regional weather radar showing location, amount and direction of any precipitation;
- Satellite imagery for the Eastern Atlantic and Europe;
- Interactive display of surface wind, surface temperature and dew-point, significant cloud and weather, surface pressure and visibility;
- Interactive wind data from a display of differing altitudes for up to 5 locations throughout the UK and Europe
- Wind and temperature fields.

19.8.2 Mini-MIST Mini-MIST is being developed as a cut-down low-cost version of MIST, giving Private Pilots who have a PC and a modem at home easy access to TAFs, METARs and AIRMET information.

AIRMET BOUNDARY AND REGIONS



The name places on the map will be used by forecasters to locate the position of fronts and other weather features.

(A.L.1)